



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC# 293-2015

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: July 15, 2015

SUBJECT: SAFE HAVEN TRADE ZONE

This Letter to the City Commission is to provide information about a new Police Department initiative entitled, "SAFE HAVEN TRADE ZONE". This new program is designed to assist persons who agree to buy or sell items online and to meet with the other party somewhere to complete the transaction. Some of these online arrangements are made by criminals who intend to steal the money or merchandize that the innocent party brings to the meeting. Today, the Miami Beach Police Department is adopting a practice that many other police departments in the country are also doing – allowing the Police Department headquarters' public space to be used as a safe venue for residents who want security while conducting these transactions.

Effective with this announcement today (see attached flyer), the Miami Beach Police Department is encouraging residents to use the lobby of the Police Station to arrange such a meeting if they have any safety concerns when meeting with another person to complete a transaction previously agreed to on line. All members of the Police Department, and especially those assigned to the Report Control Center/Front Desk, have been advised that this activity may occur at any time. The Police Department has no role in these civil transactions. However, the Department can provide some sense of comfort as they occur because the police lobby is a secure and safe environment.

The Police Department is not anticipating any problems in implementing this new program and will continue to evaluate the program's progress and success over time.

DSO

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Attachment



USING THE INTERNET TO BUY OR SELL ITEMS?

The Miami Beach Police Department is committed to keeping residents and visitors safe by providing a SAFE HAVEN for exchanges from online transactions. Set the meet point for your transaction to take place at the Miami Beach police station lobby located at 1100 Washington Avenue. Police stations are public places that deter crime, are well populated, operate 24/7, and provide a safe location to conduct Internet sale transactions.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Meet in a public place.
- Do not meet in a secluded area, or invite strangers to your home.
- Tell a friend or family member where you are going.
- Take your cell phone with you.
- Consider having a friend accompany you.